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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,855	11/04/2003	Giichi Shibuya	244893US2	5761
22850	7590	07/07/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PATEL, GAUTAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Warnings has been given in this action with respect to specification and drawings.

### IMPORTANT NOTES & REMARKS

1. Following things need the Applicant's immediate attention to expedite the prosecution of this application.
  - a. The specification seems to have numerous mistakes [such as words left in the middle of the sentences. These needs to be corrected.
  - b. Abstract needs to be on single page & single paragraph with 150 words or less.
  - c. Claims 15, 17, 19 and 20 [and hence 16 and 18] has wrong dependence, these needs to be written in independent form with all limitations of claim 1 [or related claims] incorporated in it or claims be cancelled.
  - d. So called "light detecting device" [claim 15 and 17] is not properly defined in the specification or shown in the figures at all. This must be clarified properly without adding new matter.
  - e. Fig. 2, has foreign language writings on box 14, this must be corrected to proper language such as English. Also hand written notes on fig. 2 are not clear, a new fig. 2 with readable lettering is required.
  - f. Fig. 1, needs to be marked as "prior art".

### Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - A. Claims 1-14 and 21 are drawn to a so called light receiving device or an optical head structure and details, classified in Class 369, subclass 44.14.
  - B. Claims 15-18 are drawn to a light detecting device or more properly focus and/or aberration detecting device, classified in Class 369, subclass 53.23.
  - C. Claims 19-20 are drawn to a so called an optical signal reproducing device, classified in Class 369, subclass 44.11.

Inventions C and A are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

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case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the apparatus does not require details of a light receiving device. The subcombination has separate utility such as being used with a magnetic recording apparatus or a hard drive.

Inventions C and B are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the apparatus does not require details of a focus or aberration detecting device. The subcombination has separate utility such as being used with a magnetic recording apparatus or a hard drive.

Inventions A and B are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the apparatus does not require details of a focus or aberration detecting device. The subcombination has separate utility such as being used with a magnetic recording apparatus or a hard drive.

In addition, the Applicants are also required elect a single species from whichever of the above group they elect. For group A, B, or C.

These groups contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

The optical pickup device of:

- a. fig. 3 [first embodiment];
- b. fig. 10 [second embodiment];
- c. fig. 11 [third embodiment];
- d. fig. 12 [fourth embodiment].

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are considered generic.

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Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

3. A telephone call was made to Mr. Ronald Martin on July 3, 2006; to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

NOTE: Mr. Martin requested that a formal restriction be sent out for examination of the client.

4. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire **1 (one) month** and 0 (zero) days from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in ABANDONMENT of the application (see 35 U.S.C. 133, M.P.E.P. 710.02, 710.02(b)).

#### **Contact information**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam R. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6.

The appropriate fax number for the organization (Group 2600) where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Dwayne Bost, who can be reached on (571) 272-7023.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Electronic Business Center whose telephone number is 866-217-9197 or the USPTO contact Center telephone number is (800) PTO-9199.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Patel', with a stylized, cursive script.

**GAUTAM R. PATEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Gautam R. Patel  
Primary Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2627

July 4, 2006